

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

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A Cornucopia

BY MATTHEW BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

In this month of national thanksgiving, I am nostalgically thinking of that classic fall centerpiece of the cornucopia overflowing with flowers, fruit and corn. This train of thought led me to think about your electric cooperative. It may seem like a reach that only someone who works in this business would make, but let me explain. In addition to the horn of plenty I described, a cornucopia is also defined as an abundant supply of good things. Keep that definition in mind as I share how I connected your cooperative to the Thanksgiving centerpiece.

If I were to ask you the first thing that comes to mind when I ask about your electric cooperative, you are likely to say something like electricity, poles, wires, or maybe even linemen. While any of those are good answers, I think they all fall short of describing the abundant supply of good things that is your electric cooperative.

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) employs about 70 people with a remarkable variety of professional education and experience representing

over 15 different disciplines with varied levels in each. Beginning with the linemen I mentioned, this group of employees is perhaps our most visible as they install, maintain, and repair our electric system. These professional journeymen come to us with varied levels of experience and go through an extensive apprenticeship that includes varied levels of on the job training, training classes, and book and classroom education and testing.

Supporting their efforts directly are a team of warehouse personnel and vehicle mechanics. Designing the system and providing the operations group with work are a team of engineering personnel that includes degreed electrical engineers, system designers, a GIS tech, and support functions. Safety is of paramount importance in these and all of our efforts require the efforts of all of our employees and are overseen by a safety professional.

Our member services area brings another wide variety of expertise to the table. Member services representatives are the first point of contact with our members and bring a variety of experience to the cooperative. Members of this group have often advanced within the organization based on their previous

Continued on page 2

education and experience coupled with their demonstrated aptitude within our organization. This group also includes key accounts, energy efficiency experts, and communications professionals that allow us to offer additional value-added services to our membership.

As with any organization that generates revenue, we have a team of accounting and finance professionals who work with our whole staff to ensure we have a budget that meets the requirements of our work plan while keeping the rates to our members competitive and meets the requirements of our lenders. Within this part of the organization resides our purchasing function that makes sure the warehouse personnel and mechanics have what they need to support the efforts of those maintaining our system.

As a distribution electric company, modern technology is integral to all that we do, which leads us to our team of information technology professionals. A small group with a wide variety of educational and professional experience supports all of the computer infrastructure at CEC allowing the entire group to work efficiently and securely.

I would be remiss if I didn't include the professionals in human resources who are invaluable in assembling this abundant supply of good things. Bringing yet another professional discipline to the table, this group is responsible for benefits administration and more importantly, the entire employee life cycle from hiring through professional development and ultimately separation.

All of this doesn't even take into consideration the additional resources offered to CEC by your member elected board of directors. This group not only offers varied years of experience on our board, from as little as two years up to 35 years, but also brings a wide range of professional and community leadership to CEC. Your current group includes experience in various fields, such as education, small business ownership, gas industry, telephone industry, banking, finance, engineering and even dental to your cooperative.

Hopefully, at this point, you can see my connection to

the cornucopia. All these disciplines and experiences put together into one organization are truly an abundant supply of good things. I believe it is the blending of each of these experiences and professions that makes your cooperative thrive. It helps us to see things from different perspectives and offers solutions that a single-minded group could not. The other, and perhaps less obvious, parallel to my cornucopia metaphor is the time of year or event most connected to the decoration, Thanksgiving. When I nostalgically think of that cornucopia it always reminds me of Thanksgiving and our CEC cornucopia. I am thankful for the talents and efforts of all those described in serving our members.



CEC Holiday Closures

Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving
(normal business hours resume Nov. 24)

Dec. 22 at noon in observance of Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 for Christmas Day
(normal business hours resume Dec. 26)

Dec. 29 at noon in observance of New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 for New Years Day
(normal business hours resume Jan. 2)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Matthew P. Boshaw** | *CEO & General Manager*
- Chester Conti** | *Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO*
- Lisa A. Hoover** | *Director of Member Services*
- Christopher W. Kossman** | *Director of Information Technology*
- Fred E. Terwilliger** | *Assistant General Manager/COO*



Youth Tour Applications Are Open!

High school juniors: join students from across the country for a FREE week-long trip to Washington, D.C.! Youth Tour applications are now open and we are looking for students to participate in this leadership-focused, once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses paid trip. CEC will sponsor students to participate in Youth Tour from June 16-21, 2024. This fun, educational (and free) trip will provide students with leadership and resume-building skills and activities.



Explore!

Students will explore Washington, D.C.'s many museums, monuments, and memorials. They'll experience sights honoring important figures, like Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, and explore memorials dedicated to American conflicts in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

From solemn experiences, such as the Pentagon Memorial and the Holocaust Museum, to educational opportunities like the Smithsonian Museums and the Air & Space Museum, to fun events, such as a dinner cruise on the Potomac and live theater at the Kennedy Center.



Learn!

Students will get to immerse themselves in our nation's history and discover their place in our democracy. They'll get to learn about their peers' life experiences from other states while representing Pennsylvania.

Youth Tour students have the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill for a guided tour of the Capitol Building and a meeting with their elected representative where they can ask questions, discuss issues affecting their community, and learn about the work done on Capitol Hill.

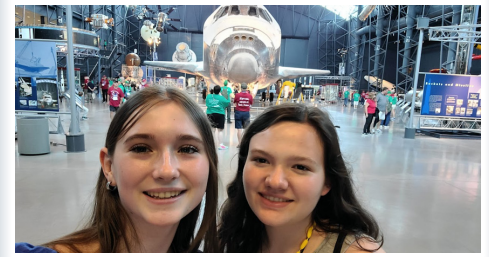
They'll also learn about co-ops, our nation, and the impact they have on their community and country!



Connect!

Students will experience the excitement of Youth Tour alongside 1,800 other students from all over the country! On Youth Tour, students make new friendships with peers from across the nation. Lifelong friendships have sprung from the shared experience students have had while on Youth Tour.

As a Youth Tour student, you'll join a network of thousands of Youth Tour alumni who include figures like senators and CEOs. Youth Tour opens students up to incredible networking connections, valuable experiences, and exclusive scholarships, as well as an amazing, week-long trip they'll never forget!



Visit www.central.coop for more details and to apply!

Deck your halls for the CEC Christmas Lights Contest!

Deck your home and you could win the CEC Christmas Lights Contest! **First place (the Griswold Award) will receive a \$500 bill credit and a \$500 donation to a charity of the member's choice! Second place will receive a \$250 bill credit and third a \$100 bill credit!**

The contest is open to both residential and commercial CEC members and the rules are simple — there are no

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special themes or guidelines, just be creative and festive!

To enter, members must complete the registration form on CEC's website and attach a photo or video of their display before Dec. 8. Voting is open to all and will take place on CEC's website from Dec. 11 to Dec. 20. The winners will be announced on CEC's website on Dec. 21 and in February's Power Lines newsletter.

Visit www.central.coop for additional contest details!



Fire Prevention & Protection at Home

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

As we get closer to the holiday seasons, families begin to plan for hosting gatherings and spending time with friends and loved ones. This time of year the temperatures start to fall and some may find themselves spending more time inside keeping warm with the furnace running, a crackling fireplace, and other forms of supplemental heat. I felt it would be appropriate to continue with the suggested topic of fire prevention and protection to share some reminders and best practices to supplement your family's safety at home.

Smoke alarms are a key part of home safety for fire protection and planning. Another very important part of being prepared for a home fire is the implementation of an escape plan. When there is a fire in a home, smoke tends to spread quickly. Properly working smoke alarms and detectors give you and your family early warning signs to react or respond quickly to a fire.

It is important to remember that closed doors may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. It is also crucial to install alarms on every level of the house, including the basement. Larger homes will require more smoke alarms and it is recommended to use interconnected units – when one alarm sounds, they all sound. Smoke alarms should

be tested monthly with a press of the “Test” button, or equivalent feature.

Today's smoke alarms are more technologically advanced and can respond to a multitude of fire conditions, while mitigating false alarms. A smoke alarm should be installed on ceilings or high on a wall as smoke tends to rise in the event of a fire. It is recommended to keep alarms away from the kitchen, or at least 10 feet from the stove, to reduce the likelihood of false alarms. All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Children, elderly, or disabled persons may have difficulty responding to a sounding fire alarm. Research indicates that not everyone will wake up to the alarm tones. Special alarms can be installed that offer additional warning indicators, such as strobe lights and bed shakers. The NFPA reaffirms the value of installing smoke alarms in various locations throughout your home, as well as adding a strong emphasis on planning and practicing home fire escape plans.

The data found in this article was sourced from the National Fire Protection Associate at nffa.org.

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY TIP

A clean stovetop is a safer stovetop.



Role: Information Technology Administrator

Employee Since: June 2017

Employee Spotlight: Cliff Whitcomb



What do you do at CEC? I monitor and manage our information technology infrastructure, as well as manage and implement critical technology projects to help the cooperative meet or exceed its technical needs. Additionally, I assist in supporting all our staff in resolving their technical issues.



What do you enjoy most about working at CEC? The flexibility to meet with other peer groups to discuss current trends and learn of different approaches to resolve similar issues that affect other cooperatives, as well as having like-minded individuals with the same goals and ideals working to meet the needs of the membership.



What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Welding/metal work, fishing, four wheeling, riding motorcycles, home improvement, tinkering.



What is your least favorite food? Peas, bacon, olives.



Do you have any pets? A two-year-old German Shepard/English Mastiff and two cats.



by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist

A Day in the Life of a CEC Lineman, Part 2 (Continued from last month's newsletter.)

When the crews arrived at CEC the next morning everything was already prepared and loaded on the trucks. The linemen received their crew and truck assignments, then gathered with the chief lineman assigned to the job and went over their specific task. Another important piece of information all crews must discuss before beginning work is the 9-1-1 address of the job. If an emergency happened while they were working, everyone would already be aware of what and where to tell emergency services to meet them.

Once at the location, wheels were chocked, outriggers were put down, PPE was put on and additional safety steps were completed. CEC contracted traffic control (flaggers) were also set up before crews began working. Flaggers are contacted beforehand and told how many personnel are needed for a particular job, as well as where and when to meet our crew.

Before beginning work, the crew double-checked the line, shut off the power, obtained a visual opening in the line by disconnecting the fuses, and placed grounds where required so they could now safely work on the de-energized line. Now split into four crews, they then had a final tailgate meeting to discuss how to do everything safely, in what order and who was responsible for what part of the day's work.



Setting an anchor for a guy wire with the digger truck.

The first crew had the task of locating any underground lines so an anchor for a guy wire could be set with the digger truck. Due to the changes they were making to the lines and equipment from a two-phase to a three-phase line, extra support was required from a new guy wire.



Equipment transferred from the old pole to the new pole.

At the same time, the other crews began working on their assigned task as part of this project. The crew across the street began transferring the wires from an old pole to a new pole (which had been set at an earlier date.) The cables hanging down in the picture to the left are grounds. The electricity is off, but the safety grounds provide extra protection if something were to energize the lines.

Crew three worked on removing a line to leave a single phase line for the few houses located on that road — which is called a retirement.

Crew four simultaneously worked on attaching a new underground cable (put in at an earlier date by a contractor) to a new, stronger fiberglass crossarm. Since the pole was a dead end pole, it utilizes a fiberglass crossarm. They then worked on retiring the old pole next to the new one and making sure everything was finished on the new pole and underground wire. This was the last step before the crew removed their safety grounds and turned the power back on.



Crew three "retiring" equipment.



Crew four.

This was a very abbreviated version of events, but I hope it gives members a better understanding of the work our linemen do every day.

Part 3 coming next month.



Energy Efficient Thanksgiving Day

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

One of my favorite holidays is finally here, Thanksgiving! Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie, the list goes on! Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorites, it is all about food and spending quality time together. It seems to me though that most stores just skip right over it because it's not a present buying type of holiday, if you know what I mean. Just because they skip over it doesn't make it any less important though. So, let me help you by giving you some tips that can help keep your electric usage lower over the holiday.

- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees while cooking. The oven will help warm your home and having a bigger group of people for dinner helps generate heat as well.

- Buying a turkey that's the correct size for your gathering instead of one that's bigger than needed helps save time and energy while cooking.
- It is not necessary to preheat the oven if you are going to slow roast your turkey.
- Cooking the turkey while it's stuffed with dressing has a longer cooking time. Cooking the dressing separately can reduce oven use. You could also cook your turkey another way, such as smoking or deep frying.
- Keeping the oven door shut verses opening and checking progress also reduces energy use by keeping the heat inside the oven.
- Running the dishwasher when it's full also helps reduce energy use, just remember to skip the dry feature and let them air dry.

Taking these few steps could help keep your usage down so your electric usage doesn't gobble up all your money on your next bill!



Join the MAAC!

CEC is looking for members to serve on the 2024-2025 Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) committee. The committee establishes effective communication between cooperative members, the board of directors and management. The MAAC will meet eight times (once a quarter) during the 2024-2025 term.

CEC will select representatives from the following counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest and Venango. In keeping with the co-op's bylaws, Allegheny County members shall be affiliated with Butler County and Mercer County members with Venango County.

MAAC members must be residential members with

their permanent residence on CEC lines in the county they represent. In addition to residential members, the committee will also include a seasonal representative who has a seasonal account on CEC lines.

All interested members must be in good standing with the cooperative to be considered. MAAC members receive a per diem and mileage compensation for attending each meeting.

If you are interested, please complete the coupon below and send it to: Central Electric Cooperative, MAAC Committee, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

Visit www.central.coop/member-aware-advisory-committee for more information!

Member Aware Advisory Committee
I would like to volunteer to serve on the 2024-2025 MAAC Committee

Name(s): _____ Residential or Seasonal (circle one)

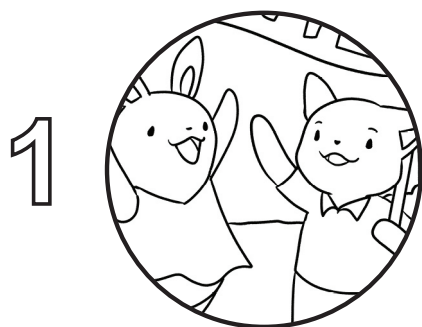
Account #: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

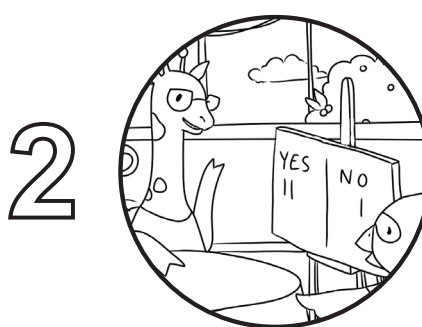
County: _____ Email: _____

Coupons must be returned by Dec. 1.
If you have any questions, please call 800-521-0570.

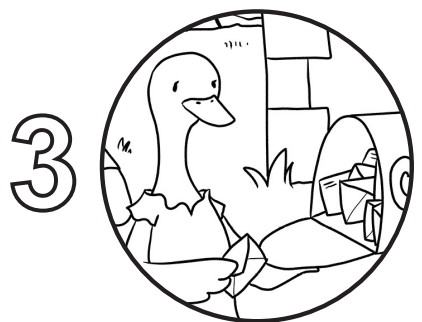
SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



Open and
Voluntary
Membership



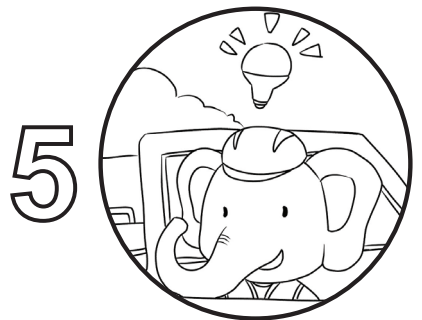
Democratic
Member
Control



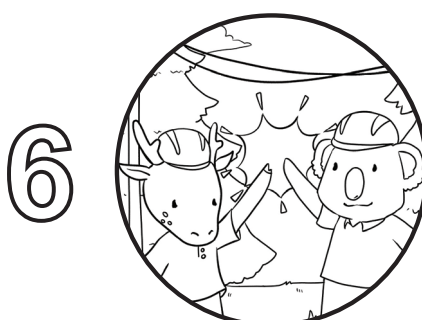
Members'
Economic
Participation



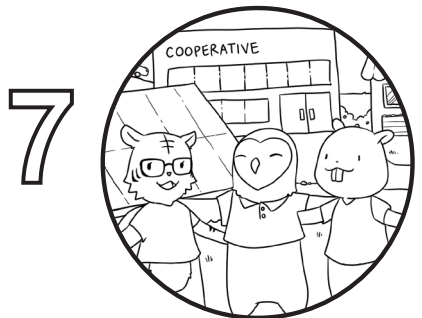
Autonomy and
Independence



Education,
Training and
Information



Cooperation
Among
Cooperatives



Concern for
Community

Did you know all co-ops use the same set of seven principles to guide their work?

From the Kitchen of:
Carol Books

RECIPE: **CHEESECAKE BARS**



- INGREDIENTS:
- 1 box yellow cake mix
 - 1 stick margarine
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 1 lb. powdered sugar
 - 2 eggs, beaten
 - One 8-ounce package of cream cheese

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Add cake mix and one beaten egg to the melted margarine. Spread mixture in the bottom of a pan (grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan.) In a separate bowl mix sugar, two beaten eggs, cream cheese and vanilla until smooth. Spread mixture over bottom layer and bake for about 33 minutes.



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IN CONTROL.**

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your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

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RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative

Your Board of Directors



From left (back row): Robert Smith, President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Vice President, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, Armstrong County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; and Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker PA 16049
Member Services: 800-521-0570; Outages: 800-282-8610
www.central.coop

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Moore

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

